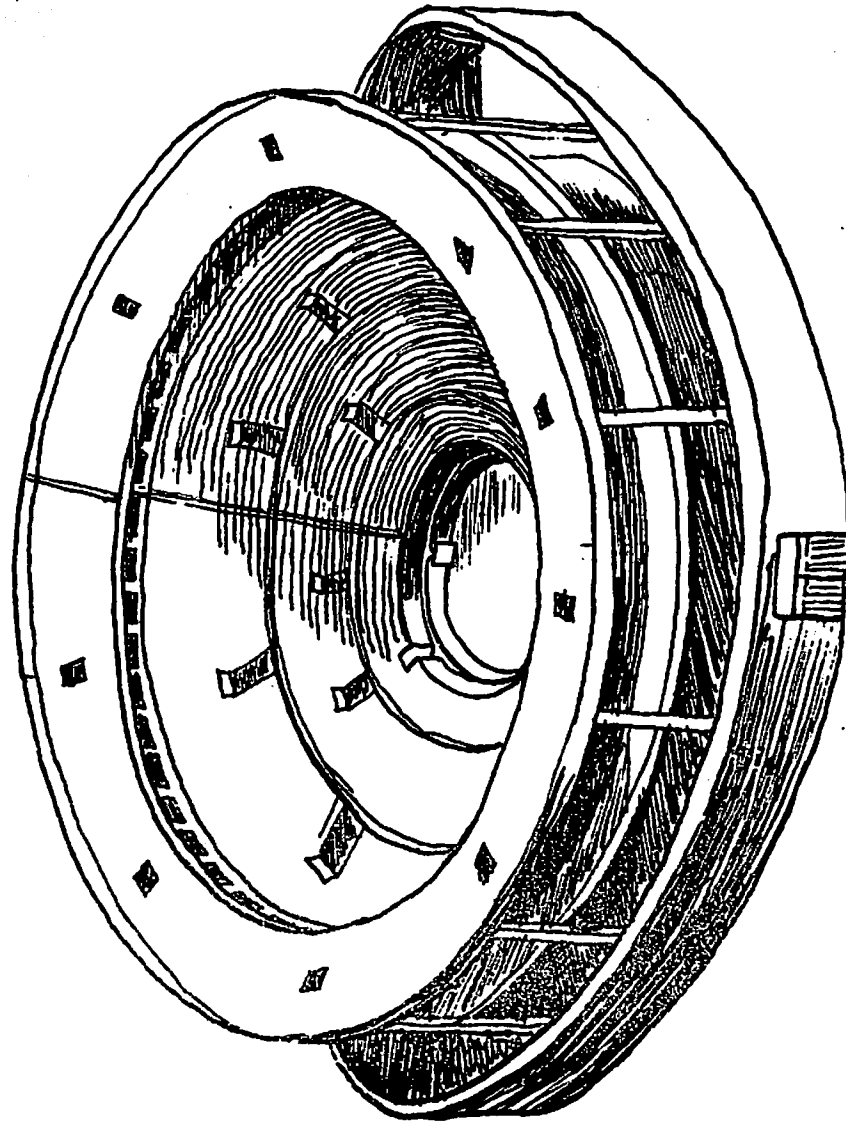


The Arena

The plaza is round. Underneath the stands are tunnels leading to a hospital, a chapel, the horse stables, and the bull pens. The puerta de arrastre is the door by which the dead bulls are dragged out (arrastrar means to drag). This door is directly across from the authority's box. Above it, on the top of the grandstand is the clock the officials use. There is another door through which the picadors enter. The bulls enter through the puerta de toriles (door of the bullpens). Over it, before each fight, is placed a sign that shows the bull's name, his brand number, and his weight in kilograms.

The red wooden fence around the arena (sand) is called the barrera (barrier). In front of the barrera are four wooden shields called burladeros which are the same height as, parallel to, and hiding an opening in, the barrera. There is just enough space between the burladeros and the barrera for a man to squeeze into sideways but not enough to admit the bull's horns. They furnish points of entry into the ring and protection for the peóns when they have to take cover suddenly. (The matador is never supposed to leave the ring because the bull is pressing him.) The burladero de mata-



THE PLAZA

